

**SUMMARY REPORT:**  
**Offaly Local Community Development Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at 11.00 am via ZOOM.**

**Members in attendance**

SECTOR	SECTORAL INTERESTS	NAME	PRESENT / APOLOGIES
<b>Public Sector</b>	Local Authority Member - Tullamore Municipal District	Cllr Declan Harvey	Apologies
	Local Authority Member - Birr Municipal District	Cllr John Leahy (Chairperson)	Via Zoom
	Local Authority Member - Edenderry Municipal District	Cllr Noel Cribbin	Apologies
	Local Authority Official - Chief Executive	Ms. Anna Marie Delaney	Via Zoom
	Local Authority Official - Local Enterprise Office	Ms. Orla Martin	Via Zoom
	State Agency - Laois Offaly Education & Training Board	Mr. Anne Marie Keane	Apologies
	State Agency - Teagasc	Mr. Con Feighery	Apologies
	State Agency - HSE	Ms. Ann Sheerin	Via Zoom
	Department of Social Protection	Ms. Celine Kirwan	Via Zoom
	<b>Private Sector</b>	Community & Voluntary Sector - Offaly PPN	Ms. Sylvia Sweeney (Vice-Chairperson)
Community & Voluntary Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Sinead McDonagh	Via Zoom
Social Inclusion Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Olive O' Sullivan	Via Zoom
Social Inclusion Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Deirdre Arnold	Via Zoom
Environment Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Rebekah Keaveny	Via Zoom
Local & Community Development Offaly Integrated Local Development Company		Mr. Brendan O'Loughlin	Via Zoom
Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests Construction Industry Federation		Mr. Mark Cronin	Via Zoom
Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests Irish Farmers Association		Mr. Richard Scally	Via Zoom
Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests Business Interests		Mr. Fechin Daly	Via Zoom
Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests Offaly Tourism Marketing CLG		Mr. Philip O' Brien	Apologies

**In attendance:**

Sharon Kennedy, A/Chief Officer; Paula Donovan, A.O.; Bridie Costello Hynes, PPN & Age Friendly Manager; Sharon Ballard, Fiona Flaherty, Offaly County Council; Roisin Lennon & Siobhan Broderick, OLDC.

Cllr. J. Leahy, Chairperson, welcomed members to the meeting. A roll call of all members in attendance was recorded by Ms. S. Kennedy, A/Chief Officer. Apologies were noted.

Members joined Cllr. J. Leahy, Chairperson in offering a Vote of sympathy to Cllr. D. Harvey and Family on the recent death of his sister-in-law and recent retiree of OCC, Ms. Una Harvey RIP.

Members also welcomed Ms. Celine Kirwan, representing Dept. of Social Protection on the State Agencies Sector, to Offaly LCDC.

#### **Adoption of Minutes of the LCDC meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were proposed for adoption by Mr. F. Daly, seconded by Ms. A M Delaney and agreed by the members.

#### **Matters Arising.**

None.

#### **1. Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and Transitional LEADER Programme 2021-2022:**

- a. LEADER Projects
- b. Projects for Extension
- c. Expressions of Interest
- d. LEADER Administration and Animation Payments
- e. Department of Rural and Community Development Circulars

Members considered and approved the above items in relation to the LEADER Programme.

#### **2. Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme 2018-2023 (SICAP)**

##### **SICAP Mid-Year Review 2022**

Ms. D. Arnold, Vice-Chair (ECWG) advised members that the LCDC Empowering Communities Working Group (ECWG) held a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to consider the SICAP Mid Year Review. The review covers the period January – May 2022. All documentation and reports associated with the Review were circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

Ms. D. Arnold advised that the working group have considered the Mid-Year review in full and is satisfied that sufficient progress has been made in delivering SICAP and recommend formal approval by the LCDC.

Ms. S. Broderick provided a very comprehensive overview of the Mid-Year Review to the members, outlining progress across both Goals and detailing a broad range of programmes, events, training courses, activities and supports that have been provided to date in 2022. Ms. S. Broderick advised 2022 has been a very challenging period post-Covid with unforeseen challenges emerging and responses required to the Ukrainian refugee crisis. Significant work was undertaken to support Ukrainian refugees across five centres and a range of hosting families. The current challenges facing SICAP groups were outlined and discussed.

Members thanked Ms. S. Broderick for her comprehensive update and thanked her SICAP team for their ongoing work in the delivery of SICAP and responding proactively and flexibly to the ongoing challenges.

On the proposal of Mr. F. Daly, seconded by Ms. O. Martin, members approved and welcomed the SICAP Mid-Year Review 2022 as presented.

##### **SICAP Additional Funding – Ukrainian Supports**

Following previous notification at the June 2022 LCDC meeting in relation to funding of €5 million for the SICAP Programme/Local Development Companies to assist the community response to support people arriving from Ukraine, Ms. P. Donovan advised that the allocation for Offaly SICAP is €63,526. This funding will support and

enhance the work taking place to deliver vital supports and services and will continue to assist in the integration of the Ukrainian people in Offaly communities.

Ms. S. Broderick outlined the proposed plan of actions to support Ukrainian refugees across both Goals in relation to the additional funding. Members welcomed the additional funding, noting the positive impact it will have to sustain the level of support and assistance given to Ukrainian people in Offaly.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, Chair, seconded by Ms. D. Arnold, members agreed actions and budget proposals as presented.

### **SICAP 2022 Case Study**

Ms. S. Broderick advised the meeting that it was proposed the case study for 2022 would focus on the area of Social Enterprises and the key resources they provide in communities across the county. The case study will be presented in video format and showcase the role Social Enterprises have in the community and the variety of key supports and services they provide.

On the proposal of Ms. O. Martin, seconded by Ms. D. Arnold, members agreed to proceed with the Case Study 2022 as outlined.

### **SICAP 2022 – UN Public Services Award**

Ms. D. Arnold, Vice-Chair ECWG, informed the meeting that the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) has won the prestigious 2022 United Nations Public Service Award in the category 'Institutional Resilience & Innovative Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic' and extended her congratulations.

Ms. S. Kennedy, A/Chief Officer, extended congratulations and acknowledged the work SICAP delivered throughout the pandemic and the significant role they played in the Community Response Forum.

Members congratulated Ms. S. Broderick and all the SICAP team for their continued good work in Offaly.

Members agreed it was a wonderful acknowledgement of the immense work of the programme, particularly over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **3. Age Friendly Development Strategy (update)**

Ms. B. Costello-Hynes, Age Friendly Manager provided members with a comprehensive presentation in relation to the preparation of Offaly Age Friendly Strategy 2022-2027. She outlined the process involved and timeframes for implementation. A review of the current plan has taken place in consultation with members of the Age Friendly County Alliance, Older Person's Council and OCC Interdepartmental Team, as well as with older people across Offaly. Thematic areas identified were highlighted.

The strategy aims to be a collective plan across agencies and organisations in the county to collaborate with older people and to work creatively together to deliver achievable, realistic and timely actions and results that respond to issues identified in the consultation process. Further updates to be provided to members as the plan progresses.

Members thanked Ms. B. Costello-Hynes for her detailed update, welcoming the work to date on the new strategy.

### **4. Funding Opportunities**

Cllr. J. Leahy, Chair, drew the attention of the members to the funding opportunities report as circulated to members with agenda documentation.

### **5. Correspondence**

None.

### **6. Any Other Business**

#### **Pride of Place 2022**

Ms. P. Donovan advised members that the judging for the three groups nominated in Offaly are as follows:

- Muklagh Community Development, Tullamore MD - Wed 24<sup>th</sup> August 9 am-1 pm

- Geashill Tidy Towns, Edenderry MD – Wed 24<sup>th</sup> August 2 pm-5.30 pm
- Pullough Village, Birr MD – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 9 am-1pm

Members are welcome to attend.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The members agreed that the next meeting of the LCDC would take place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 11.00 am in the Council Chamber and via ZOOM.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Clr. John Leahy,  
Chairperson.

Date: 08-09-22.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Brian Pey,  
Acting Chief Officer,  
Local Community Development Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022